

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 1-20 is acknowledged with appreciation.

By this amendment, withdrawn claim 21 has been canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, applicants rights to prosecute the subject matter thereof in an appropriate divisional application.

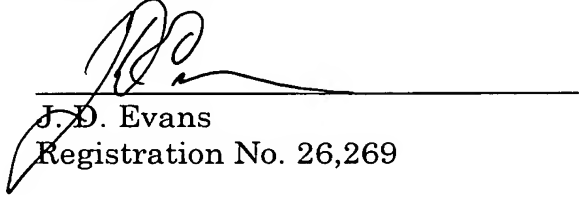
In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2845 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #02931050801).

Respectfully submitted,

January 22, 2004


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